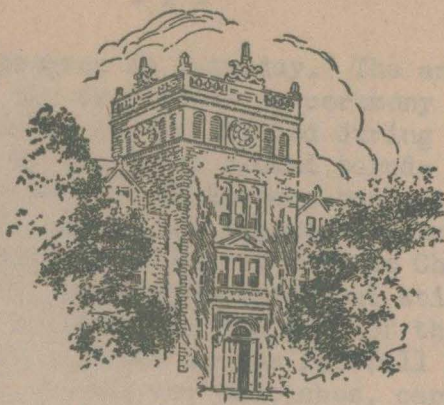


To the

FRONT



from

MUHLENBERG

Number 111
June 17, 1947

Dear Mules:

It has been a long time since I had an opportunity to write to you and bring you up to date on the news of the campus, and what news we have for this issue, for things have been happening so thick and fast around here for the past two months, that I hardly know where to begin. This will probably be a long letter, so let's go.

The biggest news is, of course, the fire which ruined the Administration Building on Friday night, May 30th. Some of you may have heard about it or read of the fire in the papers. Here is the story of just what happened.

Alumni weekend was held on Friday and Saturday, May 30th and 31st. The returning alumni had gathered on the campus on Friday, had listened to the Junior Oratorical Contest in West Hall Auditorium, had attended the President's Reception at his home, enjoyed a fine dinner under the Big Top, and had then adjourned to the Hotel Traylor for the big stag party which has become so traditional a part of Alumni festivities. About 10:30 P.M. fire was discovered on the third floor of the Ad Building by the College Treasurer, Mr. Howard MacGregor and the night watchman, Elmer Fry. An alarm was turned in and soon news of the fire reached the assembled alumni at the Traylor with the result that the party ended rather abruptly as all concerned streamed out Chew Street to the campus to aid in saving the records, typewriters, and anything else that could be carried to safety.

It soon became evident that a general alarm had to be turned in, and this brought fire apparatus from all parts of the city, and hundreds of spectators lined the campus watching the 43 year old building fall prey to the flames. A group of about 150 students, alumni and interested townspeople worked heroically and saved all the records, including the diplomas needed for the graduation ceremonies which were held the following Monday. Most of the athletic equipment was saved and salvaged, and was found to be little the worse for wear.

The loss, which was covered by insurance, was estimated to be in the neighborhood of \$400,000.00. The top floor and the roof were completely burned out and the rest of the building was ruined by water. Estimates given by persons in authority place the restoration of the building for use as possible by the fall of 1948. Some of the valuable manuscripts and notes of the various professors who had offices in the building were destroyed, as were department libraries, many of which contained very valuable and irreplaceable books.

The Red Cross was right on the job during the five hour blaze, serving coffee, sandwiches and doughnuts to the firemen. Fortunately, there were no serious casualties, a few men were overcome by smoke or cut by falling glass.

Temporary offices have been established for the Administrative staff of the College. The President, Vice President, Dean of the Faculty, Dean of Students, Registrar, Business Manager and Superintendent of Buildings and Grounds are located in "A" Hall of the East Hall Dormitory. The Public Relations and Alumni Offices together with the Mimeograph and Addressograph Rooms are located in the first floor of "B" Hall. The Treasurer is in the basement of the Library and Haps has moved back to his old office in West Hall. The various department offices are distributed between the Library, the Science Building and West Hall. For the summer, the College Store, which suffered heavy water damage, is located in the Commons.

As yet, there has been no announcement as to plans for rebuilding the Administration Building. Adjustors, college officials and engineers are in daily conference, but plans for the large enrollment of 1350 students in the fall term are going ahead as before. A new recreation building is being erected west of the powerhouse and quonset huts may be erected on the campus to take care of emergency classroom and office facilities.

The fire, although it dampened a bit the festive note of alumni weekend, nevertheless did not deter the more than 500 alumni who came back to the campus from

enjoying the remainder of the program on Saturday. The annual alumni meeting was held at 10:00 A.M. followed by the tree planting ceremony conducted by the class of 1937 in memory of Lt. William Laing who was killed during World War II. Luncheon under the Big Top was followed by the first alumni parade to be held since 1942. The paraders, led by a color guard, the Muhlenberg band, cars bearing the class of 1897, the presidents of the College and the Alumni Association, and the marching classes started from 23rd & Liberty Streets, up 23rd to Chew and west on Chew to the campus road, past the Chapel, the fire-ravaged but still proud Administration Building, the Library, Science Building, to the rear of that structure where it disbanded on the paved play area adjacent to the football field. The class of 1937, resplendent in bartender aprons, handle-bar mustaches, carrying steins, and with a fine float, won the prize for the largest class. The class of 1932, wearing sun helmets with their class numerals painted on the brim, was awarded the prize for the runnerup. The class of 1907 was awarded the prize for the highest percentage of living members present at the reunion while a special prize went to Dr. Reuben J. Butz, class of 1887, who marked his 60th anniversary of graduation from college, and was the oldest alumnus present in the parade. The paraders were judged by two prominent citizens of Allentown, John Henry Leh and Morris Senderowitz.

A feature of the parade was the presence of Miss Ruth Follweiler as the Sig Ep Gal, riding in the Sigma Phi Epsilon float. The interfraternity float also attracted considerable comment.

The Senior Graduation Ball held at the Hotel Traylor Saturday night attracted quite a crowd of alumni who thoroughly enjoyed the music of Harry Herrera and Walt Simpson, who staged a battle of music before a capacity crowd. Baccalaureate and Commencement Services were held as scheduled.

Alumni Weekend marked the closing of the sport schedule for the College for this collegiate year. The baseball team wound up their season with 8 wins against 7 losses. The Mules beat Temple, Gettysburg, Moravian twice, Scranton twice, Lehigh and Susquehanna while losing to Princeton, Swarthmore, Lafayette, F. & M., Lehigh, Penn State and N.Y.U. The scores of the last few games are as follows: Moravian 1, Mules 4; F. & M. 7, Mules 5; Lehigh 6, Mules 4; Susquehanna 0, Mules 6; Penn State 4, Mules 0; Scranton 4, Mules 5; Moravian 4, Mules 5; Lehigh 5, Mules 8; N.Y.U. 5, Mules 4; Scranton 8, Mules 16.

The racket busters under the tutelage of Doc Shankweiler also wound up their season by defeating Moravian 9-0, Lafayette 5-4 in a sizzling match, and dropped decisions to Swarthmore 9-0 and Haverford 9-0. In the Bucknell-Muhlenberg match, "Berg took 4 out of 6 singles and then rain cancelled the doubles matches. The J.V.'s dropped a match to the Lehigh J.V.'s 8-1.

Ernie Fellows' track squad, pointing for next year's season, engaged in the following meets. They came out on top in a triangular meet with Ursinus and Haverford, M-71, U-45½, H-37½; West Chester-77½, M-48½; Bucknell-63, M-55, Drexel-34; Lafayette-81½, M-44½; Temple-52, M-74. They also placed eighth in the Middle Atlantics.

Doggie Julian, former football coach at 'Berg, has been named backfield coach of the Boston Yanks of the National Football League.

GEORGE BIBIGHAUS '47, named as end on the Little All American team for 1946 and also named to an end position on the Associated Press All-State team, has been elected coach of all sports at Lehigh High School. George was married last Saturday.

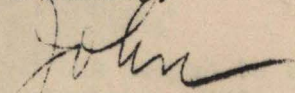
The Mules will meet the Blue Hens of the University of Delaware in Liberty High Stadium, Bethlehem, on November 15th. The stadium was secured in order to take care of the overflow crowd expected when these two elevens clash.

News of the campus is rather interesting. The College will offer a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree next year to interested students in this field. The Mask and Dagger did a creditable job in producing Hamlet. The Chapel Choir recorded some of the traditional Muhlenberg songs and the records are really swell. They include the following numbers: "Alma Mater", "Dawn and Desire", "Fair Muhlenberg", Fred Waring's "Alma Mater" and the "Kick of the Muhlenberg Mule", "Beautiful Savior", "Hallelujah, Amen", and a "Song for Peace". Phi Kappa Tau initiated 28 University of Delaware students in a mass initiation held at the local chapter house recently. North Hall Dormitory has been opened, one wing of the new construction accommodating 51 men. (We now have East Hall, the big dormitory which most of you know, West Hall-the Freshman dorm, South Hall, a new dormitory across Chew Street, and North Hall, the dorm near the College Grove.) The M Club show, "Sheepskin Derby", played before large and appreciative audiences. O.D.K. has been revived and initiated 18 men. Chaplain John W. Doberstein has resigned his post at the College in order to accept a professorship at the Lutheran Theological

Seminary at Mt. Airy, Philadelphia. The student wives have formed their own organization, the Mar-Kay Club, and meet monthly to discuss mutual problems.

That about brings you up to date on things that have happened here on the campus since the last letter. Now would be a good time for you to drop me a line and tell me of some of the things that are happening to you in your particular spot in service. Why not do it, NOW!

Cordially,



JOHN H. WAGNER
Alumni Secretary